

ASHEVILLE TRANSIT COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Police/Fire Training Room-Municipal Building
July 14, 2010 4:30-6:30

Attending:

Commission Members: Dave Erb, Tom Tomlin, Georgia M. Shannon, Kevin Jenkins, Paul Van Heden, Julie Mayfield

Staff: Mariate Echeverry, Janet GeorgeMurr, Edna Johnson, Emmett Fisher

Community members: Tom Herman of NCDOT, Natalie Murdock, FBRMPO

4:35 p.m.: Introduction of the Transit Commission Members, Staff and public.

Explanation of Public Comment Standards and Opportunities: Julie Mayfield read the Explanation of Public Comment.

Agenda Amendments: Under Old Business: Dave Erb to update on Consolidation Study; Under Staff Updates: Mariate Echeverry to update on Bus Grant Application.

June 9, 2010 Transit Commission Minutes – was reviewed. Georgia S. motioned to approve the minutes with minor changes; Julie M. and Kevin J. second the motion with all TC in favor.

Welcome Public – Introductions and Pre-Meeting Public Comment

- Paul introduced Julie Mayfield as the newest member of the TC Commission and presented Julie with the New Member Packet
- Tom Herman, NCDOT
- Natalie Murdock of FBRMPO
- Thomas Noyes of NextBus to give presentation
- Staff and Transit Commission members introduced themselves.

Presentations: Tom Noyes of Nextbus presented Nextbus product. Nextbus uses satellite technology to tell transit users in real-time when their next ride will arrive by GPS satellites; they can count on public transit as the reliable travel choice by using the computer, Smartphone, or by text messages. GPS satellites track location of a bus; bus receives GPS tracking data, which are sent to a wireless communication tower; wireless tower relays the data to a NextBus data center; data center logs the location of the bus and analyzes its speed historical travel pattern and schedule to determine when it will appear at a stop; people access NextBus information via computer, cell phones or electronic signs at some stops to track their routes. Dispatch will be able to see the bus in route in real-time (approximately 8 minute threshold between scheduled times); download reports to include passenger count on and off the bus; access to safety i.e., criminal notices; silent alarm. There was a question and answer session: The GPS equipment for the buses is the size of a paperback book to be mounted on the dashboard of the buses; mobile terminal; silent alarm switch. Pricing was another question and Tom will submit a proposal for informational purposes only.

Paul asked for a discussion among the TC members. Dave E. reminded the commission that they are not a purchasing entity. Julie asked for a proposal from NextBus. Mariate stated that we can ask for a proposal but there is no funding at this time. Julie asked if NextBus has a study that show increase in ridership. Tom Noyes indicated that Chapel Hill would be a great example of improved customer services. Julie made a motion to have a proposal sent by NextBus. Kevin J and Tom T seconded the motion and all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Paul announced that J Neal will be moving to SC and will be resigning from TC. Once he sells his business he would like to go to law school. J Neal will send a formal announcement. Paul asked for comments from TC.
- Kevin asked who would be presiding the TC meeting if the chair and vice-chairs are absent... Dave E suggested to choose an alternate "on the fly" per meeting. All were in favor of this idea.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Consolidation Study:** Dave E stated that he and Paul are on the same Consolidated Study Committee that is being fostered by NCDOT. At this stage of the study a report with recommendations to coordinate activities. The report will be presented to the County Commissioners; City Council; Henderson County Commissions for approval. Paul mentioned that TC is looking forward to the final report.

STAFF UPDATES:

- **Black Mountain Route:** Mariate stated that Miriam Perry, Director of NCDOT confirmed that Black Mountain funding is going to the Board of Transportation to be extended to December 31, 2010. Mariate is working with the stakeholders, Land-of-Sky Mountain Mobility and Black Mountain on a RFP for JARC funding with FTA and match with Route 29. Paul mentioned that if NCDOT did not extend the period of performance to December the grant would have ended 8/31/10 and it was formally to end on 7/31/10. Julie asked if this was for Black Mountain service only. Mariate stated that it needs 100% funding. Black Mountain contributes with the route. COA and Buncombe County will be applying for JARC in order to continue service but it will be reduced. Tom T asked if COA is still receiving money from WWC and COA. Mariate answered yes and all funds will be matched.
- **Bus Color Scheme** (see attached): For the new members, Paul reviewed the concept of the Bus Color Scheme proposal. Mariate mentioned that we will have to work "backwards." Julie asked if the old buses would be painted to match the new color scheme. Mariate mentioned that the marketing plan will determine if that is needed. Kevin asked if Art on Transit is possible for the new buses. Mariate mentioned that the Art on Transit was a grant that Parks and Recreation received and if they get more funding it is possible to continue with Art on Transit. Paul made a motion to approve color scheme; Kevin and Tom second the motion and all were in favor.
- **Ridership:** Mariate mentioned in June the ridership was up but still less than last year; not having route 54, we lost many riders due to the changes.
- **Bus Grant Application:** Mariate announced that 1 million 680 thousand dollars from NCDOT to match two earmarks from Heath Shuler for 2 hybrid and 3 diesel. Also received \$400,000 to buy one diesel bus through a grant. Five of the buses were purchased in 2006 and 16 buses purchased in 1996 and the useful life of a bus is 12 years. Tom T. asked about the grant to purchase 5 diesel buses had to be cancelled. Mariate reiterated that FTA did not allow COA to change the length of the bus on the grant from 30 to 35 foot diesel bus; therefore the PO was canceled. Mariate stated that they are working on the specs to bid the buses in house. Kevin asked about the disposal of the old buses. Mariate stated that FTA does not allow keeping the buses; therefore, the buses will be disposed of. Tom T. asked about the RFP for the Marketing Budget. Mariate indicated that RFP is being prepared.
- **Presentation for August: Asheville Homeless Network bus pass proposal.**

MEETING SUMMARY:

- **Announcements, events, transit commission members' involvement related to transit.**
- **Agenda items for 8/11/10:**
 - Returning to the agenda is the TC experiences on the bus
 - Transit passes for homeless.

Adjourned: 5:50 pm –

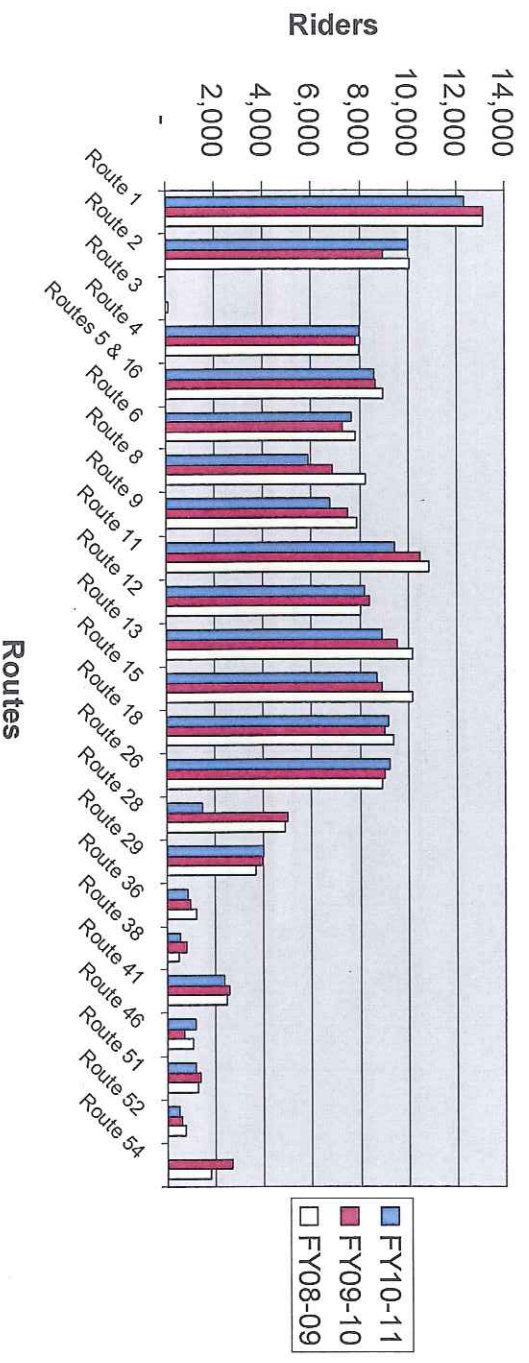
Route Ridership-FY 2011-July, 2010

Current Month

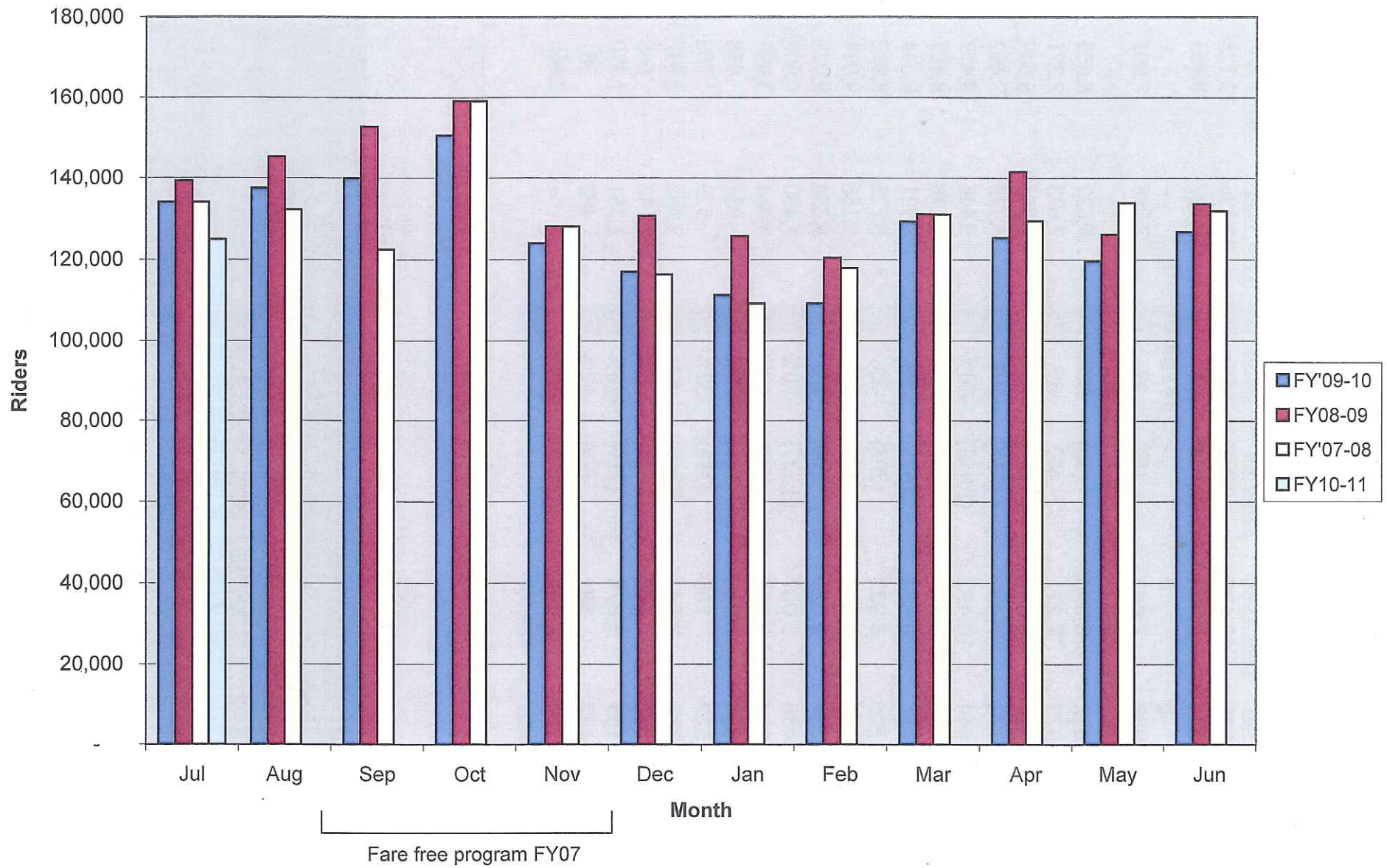
Fiscal Year to Date

Route	This Year	Last Year	Change	Delta	This Year	Last Year	Change	Delta
1	12,336	13,128	(792)	-6%	12,336	13,128	(792)	-6%
2	10,027	8,953	1,074	12%	10,027	8,953	1,074	12%
3	0	0	-	####	-	-	0	####
4	7,988	7,801	187	2%	7,988	7,801	187	2%
5 &								
16	8,622	8,655	(33)	0%	8,622	8,655	(33)	0%
6	7,673	7,271	402	6%	7,673	7,271	402	6%
8	5,864	6,849	(985)	-14%	5,864	6,849	(985)	-14%
9	6,778	7,492	(714)	-10%	6,778	7,492	(714)	-10%
11	9,444	10,492	(1,048)	-10%	9,444	10,492	(1,048)	-10%
12	8,178	8,407	(229)	-3%	8,178	8,407	(229)	-3%
13	8,921	9,544	(623)	-7%	8,921	9,544	(623)	-7%
15	8,725	8,932	(207)	-2%	8,725	8,932	(207)	-2%
18	9,158	9,044	114	1%	9,158	9,044	114	1%
26	9,234	9,029	205	2%	9,234	9,029	205	2%
28	1,480	5,007	(3,527)	-70%	1,480	5,007	(3,527)	-70%
29	3,984	3,935	49	1%	3,984	3,935	49	1%
36	834	958	(124)	-13%	834	958	(124)	-13%
38	529	780	(251)	-32%	529	780	(251)	-32%
41	2,382	2,547	(165)	-6%	2,382	2,547	(165)	-6%
46	1,143	665	478	72%	1,143	665	478	72%
51	1,151	1,370	(219)	-16%	1,151	1,370	(219)	-16%
52	482	581	(99)	-17%	482	581	(99)	-17%
54	0	2,665	(2,665)	-100%	-	2,665	(2,665)	-100%
	124933	134,105						

Route comparison July FY10



Ridership Comparison

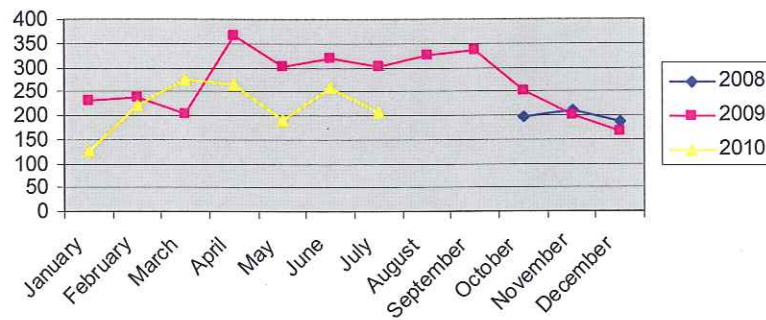


Buncombe County			
	2008	2009	2010
January		231	127
February		236	222
March		204	275
April		366	264
May		302	189
June		319	259
July		301	208
August		324	
September		334	
October	195	251	
November	209	199	
December	187	165	
Year Totals	591	3232	1544
Overall Totals	5367		

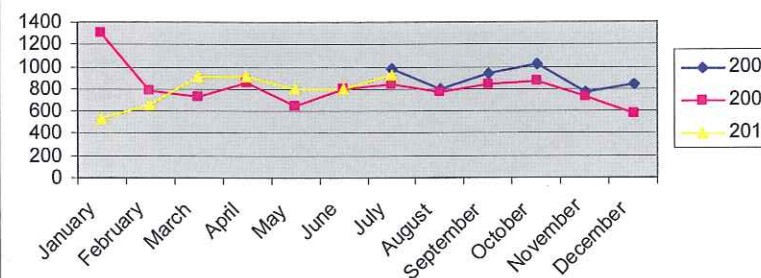
City of Asheville			
	2008	2009	2010
January		1306	530
February		779	664
March		733	916
April		850	906
May		643	794
June		793	804
July	976	838	926
August	797	774	
September	940	844	
October	1018	873	
November	770	735	
December	835	575	
Year Totals	5336	9743	5540
Overall Totals	20619		

Greenlife			
	2008	2009	2010
January		188	100
February		156	80
March		138	94
April		101	85
May		113	131
June	103	90	75
July	205	82	88
August	177	84	
September	164	117	
October	181	125	
November	152	93	
December	185	109	
Year Totals	1167	1396	653
Overall Totals	3216		

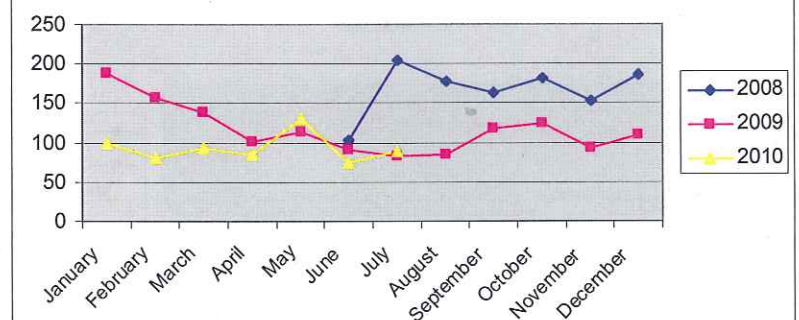
Buncombe County

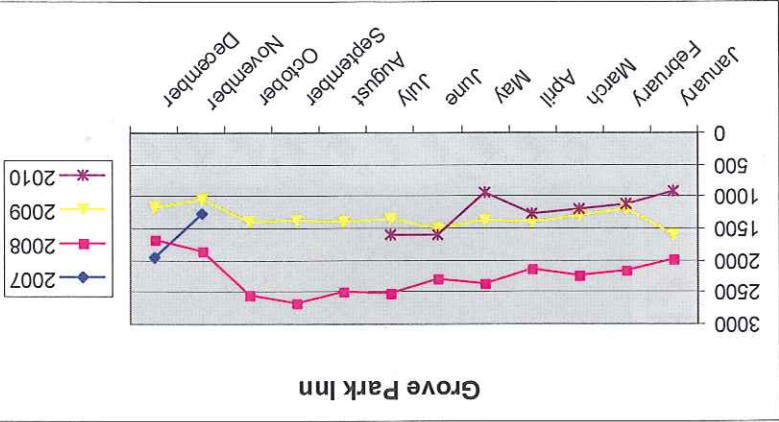


City of Asheville

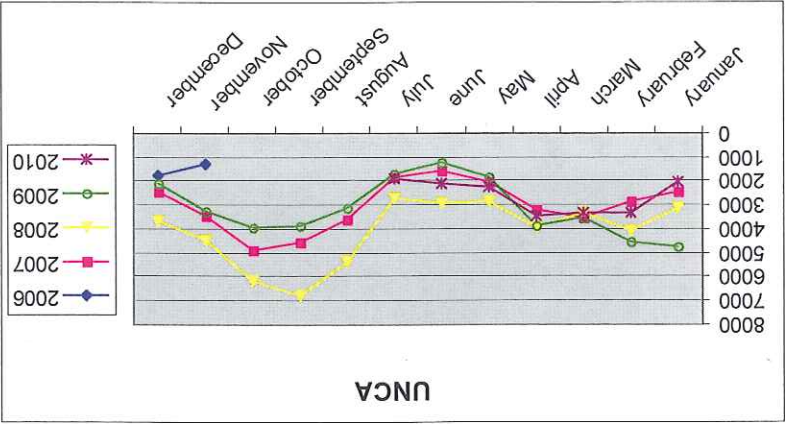


Greenlife Groceries





Grove Park Inn				
	2007	2008	2009	2010
January	1592	1198	1119	913
February	1993	1305	1205	1268
March		2128	1366	942
April		2356	1509	1610
May		2298	1345	1609
June		2520	1387	
July		2494	1376	
August		2659	1410	
September		2552	1863	
October		2552	1042	
November		1268	1969	
December		1676	1167	
Year Totals	3237	26920	16083	8666
Overall Totals	54906			



UNCA				
	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	2433	3140	4777	2020
February	2860	4041	4562	3346
March	3536	3346	3554	3335
April	3163	3906	3891	3433
May	2010	2870	1803	2248
June	1529	2882	1253	2129
July	1816	2692	1677	1890
August	3611	5336	3118	
September	4512	6755	3897	
October	4881	6169	3935	
November	1285	3452	4444	3234
December	1754	2443	3649	2124
Year Totals	3039	36246	49230	37825
Overall Totals	144741			18401